

REMARKS

These Remarks are responsive to the Office Action mailed July 18, 2007. Claims 6, 14 and 20-26 have been cancelled. Claims 1-5, 7-13, and 15-19 remain pending in the present application. Reconsideration and allowance are respectfully requested. No new matter has been added.

Objections to the Specification/Drawing

A revised set of formal drawings has been filed under separate cover. The noted reference numeral "200" has been deleted.

Claims

In the Office Action, claims 1-5, 8, 12, 16-18 were considered as anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 5,955,874 to Hoffman et al. (hereinafter Hoffman '874).

Independent Claim 1 recites:

A footing comprising:
a first end, a second end and a longitudinal axis extending between said first and second ends, an elongated channel having a longitudinal axis extending substantially parallel to and spaced from said longitudinal axis of said footing, said channel having a base and first and second sidewalls extending upwardly away from said base, said sidewalls extending from said base such that said first sidewall is free of being parallel with said second sidewall, a slot extending within said footing, said slot having a longitudinal axis that extends at an angle to said longitudinal axis of said channel; *a passage for receiving an anchoring rod, said passage extending at an acute angle with respect to a base of said footing, through the base of said footing to one of said sidewalls to the base.*

With respect to claim 1, applicant notes the Hoffman '874 fails to teach of disclose the recited footing. It is respectfully submitted that Hoffman '874, neither singularly, nor in combination with the applied references, such as Hoffman '597 teaches the inventive features recited in claim 1. For example, among other features, there is no

disclosure of a footing including *a passage for receiving an anchoring rod, said passage extending at an acute angle with respect to a base of said footing, through the base of said footing to one of said sidewalls to the base.* In view of the foregoing, claim 1 is allowable. Claims 2-5 and 6-10, depend directly or indirectly therefrom, and are allowable for at least the reasons of claim 1 and for further features recited therein.

In the Office Action, claim 11 was considered as a combination of Hoffman '874 and Hoffman '597.

Independent claim 11, recites:

A footing for use in supporting a building, said footing comprising: a first end, a second end and a longitudinal axis extending between said first and second ends, said longitudinal axis being equally spaced from first and second outer sidewalls of said footing, an elongated channel having a central longitudinal axis extending between said first and second ends, said central longitudinal axis of said channel being offset from said longitudinal center of said footing; *a passage for receiving an anchoring rod, said passage extending at an acute angle with respect to a base of said footing, through a portion of said footing from an outer surface of one of said sidewalls to the base.*

It is respectfully submitted that Hoffman '874, neither singularly, nor in combination with the applied references, such as Hoffman '597 teaches the inventive features recited in claim 1. For example, among other features, there is no disclosure of a footing including *a passage for receiving an anchoring rod, said passage extending at an acute angle with respect to a base of said footing, through a portion of said footing from an outer surface of one of said sidewalls to the base.* In view of the foregoing, claim 11 is allowable. Claims 12-13 and 16-19, depend directly or indirectly therefrom, and are allowable for at least the reasons of claim 11 and for further features recited therein.

It is respectfully submitted that this application is in condition for allowance. Should the Examiner believe that anything further is desirable in order to place the application in better form for allowance, the Examiner is respectfully urged to contact Applicant's undersigned representative at the below-listed number. It is believed that no fee is due in connection with this paper. However, if a fee is due, please charge such fee to Deposit Account No. 19-0733. If any additional fees are required or if an overpayment has been made, the Commissioner is authorized to charge or credit Deposit Account No. 19-0733.

Respectfully submitted,

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